



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Statements from U.S. Senator Max Baucus and Charles Grassley Regarding European Union provisional Common Agricultural Policy reform

U.S. Senators Max Baucus and Chuck Grassley today issued the following statements regarding the EU's proposed reform of its Common Agricultural Policy:

Senator Baucus:

"I am pleased that the European Union recognizes the need for reform of its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Reform is long overdue. I am still reviewing the details, but this plan clearly does not appear to go as far as it should. Some basic reforms - such as movement towards full de-coupling of subsidies and production - could constitute a good first step. Of course, the key will be whether the reform plan gives their negotiators the necessary flexibility to agree to real and serious reform within the Doha Round talks. Anything less than that will, ultimately, be insufficient."

Senator Grassley:

"A step by the EU on agricultural reform is better than no step at all. I look forward to examining further what is being presented by the EU as a major restructuring of its agricultural policies. But the devil can be in the details, including the exceptions and flexible implementing provisions. I hope that the EU's reforms are substantial enough to permit the EU to commit to real progress at Cancun. The United States has been, and remains, ready to negotiate real agricultural reforms at the WTO."